

Message Text

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12/15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AID-20 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /139 W

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R 300905 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1931

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5063

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (H E A D I N G - M A N I L A A D D E D A S I N F O A D D E E)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: OBSERVERS AT ASEAN MEETING

REF: A. BANGKOK 4517

B. VIENTIANE 2175

C. MANILA 3331

D. RANGOON 0754

E. SINGAPORE 1303

1. SECRETARY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASA SARASIN RE-

VIEWED BIDDING ON OBSERVER INVITATIONS ON APRIL 16-18

ASEAN MEETING AT PATTAYA DURING CONVERSATION WITH POL

COUNSELOR MARCH 29. ASA SAID THAT RTG HAD EARLIER REACHED

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DECISION, SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ASEAN MEMBERS, TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO NORTH VIETNAM, SOUTH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, BURMA, AND LAOS. OBSERVERS WOULD ATTEND OPENING AND CLOSING SESSIONS AND, OF COURSE, BE AVAILABLE FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS. RTG DECISION WAS THAT INVITATION WOULD BE EXTENDED UNLESS STRONG OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED BY ANY MEMBER STATES.

2. ASA SAID THAT UNDER RTG CONCEPT INDONESIA WOULD EXTEND INVITATION TO DRV ON BEHALF RTG AS LATTER HAS NO EMBASSY IN HANOI. ASA CONTINUED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THAT DRV WOULD ACCEPT INVITATION. HOWEVER RTG WANTED TO MAKE GESTURE. ASA ADDED THAT RTG HOPES TO ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN BRINGING POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR ON DRV IN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE HANOI TO LEAVE LAOS AND CAMBODIA ALONE.

3. ASA, APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF GUB DECISION NOT TO ATTEND (REF D), SAID THAT HE EXPECTED GUB TO DECLINE BUT THERE NO HARM INVITING.

4. ASA SUSPECTED THAT SOUVANNA MIGHT HAVE QUALMS ABOUT RLG ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION AT THIS DELICATE TIME IN DEVELOPMENT COALITION GOVERNMENT (REF B).

5. ASA THOUGHT CAMBODIANS WOULD APPRECIATE INVITATION AND THAT GVN WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND. ON MATTER OF ATTENDANCE BOTH VIETNAMS, THAI PLAN TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF INDONESIAN SENSIBILITIES WHICH MIGHT ARISE FROM LATTER'S ROLE IN ICCS.

6. COMMENT: RTG PLAN TO INVITE THE FIVE NON- MEMBERS, FIRST BROACHED TO PRESS ON MARCH 20 (REFS A AND C), APPEARS TO HAVE PROCEEDED WITH SLIGHTLY IRREGULAR CADENCE AS RTG APPARENTLY INVITED RLG AND GUB PRIOR TO CONSULTATION WITH OTHER MEMBERS, WHICH ASA SAID IS NOW UNDERWAY. THERE IS AMPLE PRECEDENT FOR NON- MEMBER OBSERVERS AS NOTED REF E, WHICH CITES INVITATIONS TO GVN AND RLG BY MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1969 AND INVITATIONS TO GVN AND RKG BY SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT IN 1972.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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PHNOM PENH
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